



Senate

Paper Title	Minutes of the last Senate meeting held on 10 December 2020.
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	N/A
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Senate to approve
Authors	Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar
Sponsor	Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

Senate

Minutes of 10 December 2020 (draft)

Present:

Professor Colin Bailey (Chair)	Shamima Akter	Dr Mark Baxendale
Dr Edo Boek	Professor Warren Boutcher	Dr Rafa Castrejon-Pita
Professor Alex Clark	Professor Paul Coulthard	Dr Joseph Cronin
Dr Paula Fonseca	Professor Colin Grant	Professor Penny Green
Dr Richard Grose	Sheila Gupta	Professor Yang Hao
Professor Matthew Hilton	Professor Peter Hobson	Professor Henri Huijberts
Dr Jessica Jacobs	Dr Robert Janes	Professor Dr Steffi Krause
Dr Theo Kreouzis	Aphrodite Liddington	Professor Andrew Livingston
Dr Philippa Lloyd	Professor Stephanie Marshall	Professor Seán McConville
Professor Parvati Nair	Dr Ali Nankali	Professor Sandra Nicholson
Professor Alastair Owens	Dr Eranjan Padumadasa	Dr Michael Page
Christina Perry	Professor Richard Pickersgill	Professor Thomas Prellberg
Mat Robathan	Professor Hazel Screen	Professor Adrian Smith
Cameron Storey	Professor Jason Sturgess	Professor Anwar Tappuni
Professor Steve Thornton	Professor Dan Todman	Dr Christopher Tyson
Professor Wen Wang	Professor Tim Warner	Dr David Williams
Professor Steve Uhlig		

In attendance:

Karen Kroger	Dr Nadine Lewycky (minutes)	Jonathan Morgan
Jane Pallant		

Apologies:

Dr Jason Berry	Professor Adrian Bevan	Professor Ginestra Bianconi
Dr Victoria Bird	Dr Dianne Cooper	Professor Jack Cuzick
Dr Sadhvi Dar	Dr Madeleine Davis	Dr Debbie De Girolamo
Professor Panos Deloukas	Dr Judith Jones	Professor Nicholas Lemoine
Professor Simon Lucas	Professor Anthony Michael	Dr Fu Liang Ng
Dr Jason Niggli	Professor Phoebe Okowa	Dr Michael Page
Professor Mauro Perretti	Dr Amitha Ranauta	Jane Reid
Dr Prakash Shah	Professor Ian Walden	Professor Anthony Warrens

Part 1: Preliminary items

Minutes of the previous meeting (SE2020.18)

2020.054 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020.

Chair's action (SE2020.19)

2020.055 Senate **noted** the chair's action on the appointment of student casework chairs and panel members.

2020.056 Senate **noted** the chair's action on revised semester dates for 2021–26 to accommodate new A-level exam dates.

President and Principal's report (SE2020.20)

2020.057 Senate **received** a report from the President and Principal.

2020.058 Members **noted** that cases of Covid-19 had been very low among staff and students throughout year. At the time of the meeting, there were only four reported cases among students and four among staff.

2020.059 Members **noted** that the national asymptomatic testing scheme was going well. The university had asked the government to extend the license until 18 December to accommodate students on placements. Tests were voluntary and students were not obliged to take one before travelling home but would have the opportunity to observe a 14-day self-isolation period in the event of a positive test. Queen Mary planned to offer further testing in the new year before the start of the second semester. The government's policy of staggering the start of next calendar year would not have an impact on Queen Mary due to the two-week exam period prior to the start of semester two. Face to face teaching on practical courses would start on 7 January; blended learning would continue across all provision in semester two.

2020.060 Members **noted** that the Health and Safety team had been short-listed for a national award.

2020.061 Members **noted** that the sector's response to the USS technical consultation had been critical of USS and the consultation in particular, which employers felt had not provided sufficient information to form a credible view of the valuation. Employers were clear in their response that the current rates of 30.7% were at the very limits of affordability. There was concern about the number of younger staff dropping out of the scheme as contribution rates increased.

2020.062 Members **noted** that the Arts Research Centre would be used for the roll out of vaccines to the most vulnerable in Tower Hamlets.

2020.063 Members **noted** that the virtual awards ceremony for the Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes had been very successful and staff were proud to show off their innovative work in education.

2020.064 Members **noted** that the new Chief Financial Officer, Karen Kroger, had joined Queen Mary on 7 December. Paula Sanderson would be starting as the new Chief Operations Officer on 15 January.

Vice-Principals' Reports (SE2020.21a–g)

2020.065 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health), (SE2020.21a).

2020.066 Members **noted** the report from the Vice-Principal (Health).

2020.067 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences), (SE2020.21b).

2020.068 Members **noted** that the faculty had been successful in securing three Leverhulme Major Research Fellowships.

- 2020.069 Members **noted** that the faculty had received c.£2m of funding for Covid-related research across a number of Schools in collaboration with other faculties. The Department of Drama was leading on three grants and involved in a further three.
- 2020.070 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Science and Engineering), (SE2020.21c).
- 2020.071 Members **noted** the report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Science and Engineering).
- 2020.072 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2020.21d).
- 2020.073 Members **noted** that the pandemic had encouraged creativity and innovation in teaching and learning which had been recognised in the Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes. Staff from all categories, including technicians and professional services, had been recognised. A funding round for the Westfield Fund for Enhancing the Student Experience had been conducted. Projects aligned to the strategic priorities for the development of our digital capabilities were being considered.
- 2020.074 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships), (SE2020.21e).
- 2020.075 Members **noted** the report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships).
- 2020.076 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), (SE2020.21f).
- 2020.077 Members **noted** that a £22m bid to develop the research infrastructure and capacity at Whitechapel had been submitted to UKRI's Strength in Places fund, led by the Director of Research Services
- 2020.078 Members **noted** that Professor Greg Slaburgh, Director of the Digital Environment Research Institute, had started, and members were encouraged to reach out to him.
- 2020.079 Members **noted** that UKRI funding was available to support PhD students who were 18 months from completion. Work to support all students was underway through the Graduate School.
- 2020.080 Members **noted** that the Vice-Principal (Research) Advisory Group met last week and agreed a range of projects to be funded through the Research Capital Infrastructure Fund.
- 2020.081 Members **noted** that the Senior Executive had approved a new policy on research grants and contract overheads that would provide a more consistent approach to claiming overheads.
- 2020.082 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion), (SE2020.21g).

- 2020.083 Members **noted** that the new Values in Action framework had been launched in December 2020. Interactive Q&A sessions would help managers understand how to embed these values in the day-to-day work of their teams.
- 2020.084 Members **noted** that the newly developed Academic Career Pathways had been approved by the Senior Executive. The Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion) thanked colleagues for pulling together this phenomenal piece of work.

Students' Union President's report (SE2020.22)

- 2020.085 Senate **received** a report from the President of the Students' Union.
- 2020.086 Members **noted** that Black History Month and Islamophobia Awareness Month had been successful. Led by the QMSU Vice-President (Communities) the liberation months showcased the true capacity of student engagement.
- 2020.087 Members **noted** the section on Student Council policy. QMSU Executive Officers were required to take forward policies passed by the Student Council in addition to the plans set out in their own manifestos.

Part 2: Matters for Discussion

Presentation from the Vice-Principal (International)

- 2020.088 Senate **received** a presentation from the Vice-Principal (International) on global engagement.
- 2020.089 Members **noted** that Queen Mary was distinguished from other London universities by opening the doors of opportunity to the world. Global engagement was a virtuous cycle across our areas of activity. Since the launch of our January start postgraduate taught programmes, we had received over 3,400 applications. It was estimated that these courses would result in an additional 500 students mostly from China and India.
- 2020.090 Members **noted** that undergraduate recruitment for September 2021 showed a strong start with growth in all Schools. The figures included some EU-domiciled students who would be classified as international students for fees purposes after Brexit. Applications from India and the UAE had increased.
- 2020.091 Members **noted** that despite an overall decrease, there had been increases in postgraduate applications from India, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the USA. There had been a sector wide decline in applications from China.
- 2020.092 Members **noted** that our global community of alumni played a key role in mobilizing applicants and future leaders. This was achieved through engagement events and a library of alumni profiles on our website.
- 2020.093 Members **noted** that there were positive student testimonies about the quality of our blended learning offering published on the website.
- 2020.094 Members **noted** that our operations in Paris and Malta provided strategic hubs in the European Union and a potential route to European research funding programmes. In addition, Queen Mary was in the process of establishing a legal entity in France. There was potential to move into other disciplines in the

Humanities and Social Sciences, mathematics and executive education. We were approaching the challenges posed by future EU recruitment with targeted bursaries to EU residents. The EU Exit Group was preparing the Queen Mary community for Brexit.

- 2020.095 Members **noted** that, based on the number of co-authored publications, two of our main partners were in France. Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications was primarily an education partner for us but also produced nearly 400 joint publications.
- 2020.096 Members **noted** that we continued to expand transnational education with new and existing partners while being mindful of the need not to disrupt our existing portfolio.
- 2020.097 Members **noted** that the expansion of QM Online was important in the university's commitment to inclusivity and partnership and to increasing reach and impact.
- 2020.098 Members **noted** the core strategic themes of the global policy institute. The interdisciplinary projects would drive impact on society and policy.
- 2020.099 Members **noted** that supporting academics at risk through the Council for At-risk Academics (CARA) programme aligned with our values. This included regular research incubation visits and providing training.

Suspensions of Regulations report (SE2020.23)

- 2020.100 Senate **received** the annual report on the suspension of regulations for 2019–20.
- 2020.101 Members **noted** that there had been an increase in suspensions this year as a result of the pandemic. The increased numbers were not unexpected and should not be used as a benchmark against previous or future years. It was noted that the suspension of regulations process had been designed for emergency situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic, and that efforts would continue to reduce instances where it was used to correct errors in assessment schemes.

Honorary Degrees and Fellowships (SE2020.24)

- 2020.102 Senate **received** a paper of recommendations for Honorary Degrees and Fellowships of Queen Mary University of London.
- 2020.103 Senate **approved** the recommendations for Honorary Degrees and Fellowships of Queen Mary University of London for consideration by Council.

OfS consultation on regulating quality and standards in higher education

- 2020.104 Senate **received** an executive summary on the Office for Students' (OfS) consultation on regulating quality and standards in higher education.
- 2020.105 Members **noted** that the consultation would close 12 January and that any feedback should be submitted by 5 January. The consultation would inform the OfS's approach to quality and standards, and to regulation. Input in relation to indicators and the risk-based approach was most welcome. It was noted that there had been concern across the higher-education sector that these proposals could lead to the OfS encroaching further on the autonomy of institutions, and

members were encouraged to provide their views for incorporation into Queen Mary's response to the proposals.

Part 3: Matters for Report

Approval of membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2020–2021 (SE2020.26)

- 2020.106 Senate **received** the membership and terms of reference for Vice-Principal (Research) Advisory Group and Partnerships Board for 2020–21.
- 2020.107 Members **noted** that the terms of reference for Partnerships Board had been updated to reflect current university governance arrangements.
- 2020.108 Members **noted** that the Deans for Education and Research would continue to have the option to attend, providing an interface with the Taught Programmes Board.
- 2020.109 Members **noted** that processes in relation to low risk partnerships had been streamlined. These partnerships would be scrutinised by the faculties in the first instance.
- 2020.110 Senate **approved** the revised terms of reference and membership for the VP Research Advisory Group. Senate **approved** the terms of reference for Partnerships Board subject to a further review of the membership.

Taught Programmes Board (SE2020.27)

- 2020.111 Senate **received** a paper on proposals relating to programme and module academic development that had taken place between 1 October and 4 November 2020, and the terms of reference and membership for 2020–21.
- 2020.112 Members **noted** the changes to the terms of reference included oversight of all taught provision, including executive education and HEAR accredited modules.
- 2020.113 Members **noted** that the QMSU faculty Vice-Presidents would serve as the student representatives on the Board.
- 2020.114 Members **noted** that an internal governance review would be held next year to consider, among other things, the diversity of membership and the pipeline.

Education Quality and Standards Board (SE2020.28)

2020.115 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Education Quality and Standards Board meeting held on 18 November 2020.

Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (SE2020.29)

2020.116 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and examinations Board at meetings held in October and November 2020.

Ethics of Research Committee (SE2020.30)

2020.117 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Ethics of Research Committee meeting held on 18 November 2020.

Partnerships Board (SE2020.31)

2020.118 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board from 1 October to 3 November 2020.

Part 4: Other matters

Dates of future meetings

2020.119 Senate **noted** that the next meetings of Senate would be held as follows:

- Thursday 4th March 2021, 3pm-5pm in the Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building, Mile End (TBC).
- Thursday 10th June 2021, 3pm-5pm in the Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building, Mile End (TBC).